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General

1. The headquarters of the Commander in Chief of the Bulgarian Air Force is located in Sofia. At present, this position is held by Lieutenant General Zakhario Zakhariyev, aided by one Major General who is chief of staff and another Major General who is in charge of services and supply. The Air Force Commander, as are the Army Commanders and the Commander in Chief of the Navy, is directly subordinate to the Chief of the General Staff.
2. The Bulgarian peace treaty limits the Bulgarian Air Force to 90 planes, with a maximum of 70 combat planes, and a total personnel of no more than 5,200 men. However, with the aid of the Soviets, these limitations have been exceeded in accordance with the plan for building up the armed forces of all satellite countries.
3. The Bulgarian military Air Force, patterned after a Soviet tactical air army, now includes at least 400 planes and a total of approximately 8,000 men. (A Soviet tactical air army includes: 10 air divisions, 30 air regiments, and 90 air squadrons, comprising a total organic force of 1,050 line planes and 216 reserve planes).

Composition of the Air Force

4. The Bulgarian Air Force is divided into "Avio-Diviziya" (Air Divisions) which are commanded by colonels or lieutenant colonels, with 130 line and reserve planes. Each "Avio-Diviziya" is composed of three "Avio-Polk," or regiments, which, in turn, are composed of three "Avio-Escadrilla," or squadrons.

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5. The individual commands and their subordinate units are located as follows:
- a. The 1 Fighter Air Division, in Dobrich, composed as follows:
 - (1) The 22 Fighter Regiment, in Dobrich;
 - (2) The 25 Fighter Regiment, in Dobrich; and
 - (3) The 27 Fighter Regiment, in Dobrich;
 - b. The 2 Light Night Bomber Air Division, in Stara Zagora, composed of the 34 Fighter Regiment and two other unidentified regiments in Stara Zagora;
 - c. The 3 Bomber Air Division, in Balchik, composed of the 42 Fighter Regiment and two other unidentified regiments in Balchik;
 - d. The 4 Fighter Air Division, in Sofia, composed as follows:
 - (1) The 11 Fighter Regiment, in Sofia;
 - (2) The 18 Fighter Regiment, in Sofia (with one squadron in Sarafovo); and
 - (3) The 16 Transport Regiment, in Sofia;
 - e. The 5 Pursuit Air Division, in Plovdiv, composed as follows:
 - (1) The 17 Pursuit Regiment, in Krumovo;
 - (2) The 20 Pursuit Regiment, in Krumovo; and
 - (3) The 23 Pursuit Regiment, in Plovdiv;
 - f. The 8 Naval Command, in Varna, composed as follows:
 - (1) A hydroplane unit, in Varna; and
 - (2) A hydroplane unit, in Burgas;
 - g. The 9 Light Night Bomber Air Division, in Yambol, composed of three unidentified regiments in Yambol; and
 - h. The 10 Fighter Air Division, in Graf Ignatiev, which includes the 21 Fighter Regiment.
6. In addition to the divisional forces listed above, the Bulgarian Air Force includes the following autonomous regiments and units:
- a. The 26 Reconnaissance Regiment, located in Gorna Oryakhovitsa;
 - b. A Parachute Regiment, composed of one group based in Sofia and one based in Stara Zagora (which are in the process of being transformed into a Division);
 - c. An airborne division, not at full strength, located in the vicinity of Sofia;

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- d. A reconnaissance unit, located in Vrazhdebna; and
 - e. A fighter training squadron, located in Levski.
7. The main plants for assembling and repairing planes are as follows:
- a. Zavod #13, in Kazanluk;
 - b. Zavod #14, in Lovech;
 - c. Zavod #15, in Karlovo;
 - d. Assembly and Repair Plant, in Plovdiv;
 - e. Assembly and Repair Plant, in Bozhurishte (N4245 E2311); and
 - f. Assembly and Repair Plant, in Yambol.

Personnel and Schools

8. Certain categories of specialists in the Bulgarian Air Force serve for a four-year period; non-specialist recruits serve a two-year enlistment.
9. Bulgarian Air Force schools are located as follows:
- a. Dolna Mitropoliya, the Air Academy;
 - b. Telish: (1) An Instrument Flying School; (2) A Fighter Training School; (3) A Bombardier Training School; and (4) A Noncommissioned Officers and Flight Personnel School;
 - c. Sofia, a Radiocommunications School;
 - d. Sofia (Bozhurishte), a School for Drivers and a School for Pilots;
 - e. Sofia (Vrazhdebna): (1) A School for Plane-assembly Specialists and for Parachutists; and (2) A School for Civilian Pilots;
 - f. Balchik, a Bombardier School;
 - g. Dobrich, a Fighter Training School;
 - h. Gorna Oryakhovitsa, a Fighter Training School;
 - i. Karlovo, a Fighter Training School;
 - j. Graf Ignatiev, a Civilian Pilots School;
 - k. Lovech, probably, a Technical School for Air Reserve Officers;
 - l. Atanasovo, probably, a Pilots School;
 - m. Krumovo, a section of a Pilots School;

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- n. Varna, a Pilots School and a Parachutists School, directed by Soviet officers;
- o. Kalofer (N4237 E2459), a Glider School; and
- p. Stara Zagora, probably, a Pilots School.

Airplane Types

10. Of the 400 planes assigned to the Bulgarian Military Air Force, approximately 350, which came from the Soviet Union, are relatively new models and are considered to be in good combat condition. The remainder are of various makes and origins and their condition cannot be ascertained. The planes turned over to Bulgaria by the Soviet Union are as follows:
 - a. YAK-9 piston-engine fighters, 100;
 - b. YAK-15 jet fighters, 15;
 - c. YAK-17 jet fighters, 15;
 - d. YAK-23 jet fighters, 30;
 - e. MIG-15 jet fighters, 10;
 - f. IL-2 Stormovik pursuit planes, 80;
 - g. PE-2 dive bombers, 115;
 - h. PE-2 planes, modified for transport, 10;
 - i. TU-2 torpedo bombers, 15;
 - j. IL-10 Stormovik planes, modified for reconnaissance, 30;
 - k. U/IL-10 Stormovik planes, modified for reconnaissance training, 30;
 - l. An unspecified number of LI-2 bombers (Dakota, C-47) and
 - m. An unspecified number of reconnaissance and transport hydroplanes.¹
11. The airplanes used for training are of the following types:
 - a. Zlin C-2;
 - b. Arado 96;
 - c. PO-2, biplane;
 - d. YAK-18; and
 - e. YAK-11.

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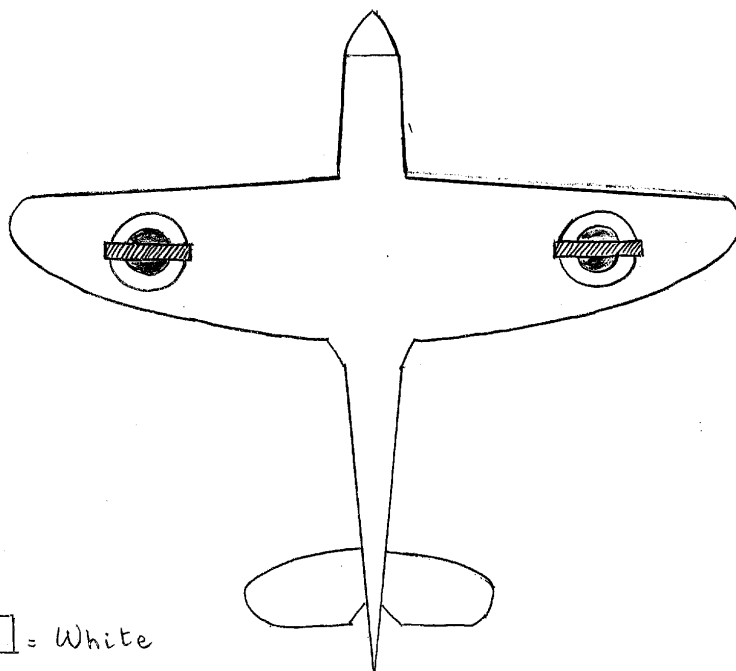

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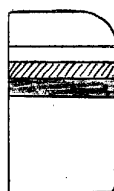
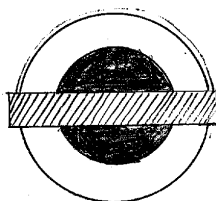
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12. The jet fighters recently turned over by the Soviet Union to Bulgaria were assigned to 1 Air Division and are located in the Dobrich area.
13. The following sketch shows the wing, fuselage, and tail markings of planes in the Bulgarian Air Force.


 = White

 = Green

 = Red


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Airplane Characteristics

14. The following is a list of Bulgarian Air Force planes and their characteristics:
- a. YAK-9, fighter, low-wing monoplane of wood and metal construction, liquid-cooled with radiator under the fuselage; inline 1,200 horsepower engine; 50X1-HUM maximum speed, 560 km/hr; armament, one 20 mm. or one 37 mm. cannon firing through the propeller hub and one 12.7 mm. machine gun; [redacted]
 - b. PE-2 (PB-100), dive bomber and reconnaissance plane; low-wing monoplane of metal construction; quite vulnerable because of its gas tanks which are located throughout the fuselage; twin liquid-cooled 1,100 horsepower engines; maximum speed, 540 km/hr; range, 1,900 kilometers; armament, two fixed 12.7 mm. machine guns and four mobile 7.62 mm. machine guns; [redacted] 50X1-HUM
 - c. TU-2, twin-engine dive bomber of metal construction; twin 1,850 horsepower radial air-cooled engines; maximum speed, 575 km/hr; range, 2,500 kilometers with 1,500 kilograms of bombs; armament, two 20 mm. cannon and four 12.7 mm. machine guns strategically located for offense and defense; [redacted] 50X1-HUM
 - d. IL-2 (Stormovik), single engine, twin-place fighter, of metal construction and with armored cockpit; 1,300 horsepower inline engine; maximum speed, 430 km/hr; range, 1,100 kilometers; ceiling, 8,800 meters; armament, two 20 mm. cannon and two 12.7 mm. machine guns, or two 32 mm. cannon and two 7.62 mm. machine guns; [redacted] 50X1-HUM
 - e. LI-2 (TS-84), twin-engine transport and bombing plane built along the lines of the Dakota C-47; this plane is allegedly being replaced by the IL-12 plane; [redacted] and 50X1-HUM
 - f. IL-10 Stormovik (IL-2 type plane modified for reconnaissance); 1,800 horsepower inline engine; maximum speed, 450 km/hr; increased range; armament, two 32 mm. cannon and one 7.62 mm. machine gun in the rear position.

Bulgarian Airfields

15. The following is a list of Bulgarian airfields:
- a. Balchik Military Airport (N4326 E2811), 2,000 x 1,500 meters, located on the Black Sea Coast southwest of the city of Balchik, has hangars and a concrete runway;
 - b. Burgas (Sarafovo) Military and Civilian Airport (N4235 E2732), 1,400 x 1,000 meters, in the process of being enlarged to 3,000 x 3,000 meters, located approximately eight kilometers north-northeast of Burgas, between the lake and the highway, has nine hangars and a radio and meteorological station;
 - c. Burgas (Atanasovo) Auxiliary Airfield, 2,000 x 1,500 meters, located approximately seven kilometers north-northwest of Burgas;

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- d. Dolna Mitropoliya Military Airport (N4327 E2430), 1,600 x 1,200 meters, located approximately eight kilometers northwest of Pleven, has a concrete runway, four large hangars, various buildings housing commands and services, and the Air Academy;
- e. Dospat Auxiliary Military Airport (N4139 E2408), 2,300 x 1,400 meters, located immediately south of the Dospat River, has nine hangars and various facilities;
- f. Elkhovo Airport (N4208 E2543), recently reactivated;
- g. Gorna Oryakhovitsa Military and Civilian Airport (N4309 E2543), 1,000 x 1,000 meters, located immediately southwest of Dolna Oryakhovitsa and south of the Yantra River in one of its bends, has a concrete runway, five large-size hangars and various service and headquarters buildings;
- h. Graf Ignatiev Military Airport (N4218 E2443), 2,400 x 1,800 meters, located approximately 20 kilometers north of Plovdiv, approximately five kilometers north-northwest of the town of Graf Ignatiev, has six hangars and a concrete runway;
- i. Yambol Military Airport (N4230 E2629), 1,350 x 650 meters, located three kilometers west of Yambol in the Tundzha River plain along the Yambol-Nova Zagora railway line, has a concrete runway, four hangars, various buildings, and a radio station;
- j. Kazanluk Military Airport (N4237 E2524), 1,500 x 1,000 meters, located 1.5 kilometers northwest of Kazanluk, immediately west of the Kazanluk-Shipka (N4243 E2520) highway, has a concrete runway, four hangars, and various buildings and workshops;
- k. Karlovo Military Airport (N4235 E2453), 1,400 x 1,000 meters, located eight kilometers from Karlovo, has four hangars and two repair shops;
- l. Kyustendil Airport (N4217 E2246);
- m. Krumovo Military Airport (N4204 E2451), 1,400 x 800 meters, with facilities for enlarging, located south-southeast of Plovdiv;
- n. Lovech Military Airport (N4310 E2443), 1,400 x 1,100 meters, located 30 kilometers southeast of Pleven, approximately 1.5 kilometers from the Lovech-Pleven and Lovech-Levski crossroads, has two hangars;
- o. Plovdiv Military and Civilian Airport (N4208 E2447), 1,600 x 1,500 meters, located approximately three kilometers southeast of Plovdiv and immediately northeast of the highway and railroad to Asenovgrad (N4159 E2452), has six hangars;
- p. Sliven Military Airport (N4240 E2621), 2,500 x 1,500 meters, located one kilometer southeast of Sliven;
- q. Sheynovo Airport, Auxiliary Field of Kazanluk, (N4245 E2520), 1,800 x 700 meters;

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- r. Sofia (Bozhurishte) Military and Civil Airport (N4245 E2311), 1,400 x 1,200 x 1,000 meters, located approximately eight kilometers northwest from the outskirts of Sofia, just west of the Sofia-Dragoman-Piroto road, includes five hangars, barracks, workshops, and a radio and telephone station;
- s. Sofia (Vrazhdebna) Military and Civil Airport (N4242 E2325), 2,000 x 1,000 meters, located two kilometers east of the suburbs of Sofia, has four hangars and various buildings;
- t. Sopot Military Airport (N4238 E2444), 1,300 x 60 meter runway, located west of Karlovo, has hangars and workshops;
- u. Varna (Sevmess) Military and Civil Airport² (N4312 E2753), 1,400 x 900 meters, located approximately two kilometers west-southwest of Varna, has a hangar, a workshop, and various buildings;
- v. Varna (Chaika) Hydroplane Base and Airport² (N4311 E2748), located on Varna Lake, has a concrete runway;
- w. Varna Civil Airport of Aksakovo (N4315 E2748), located two kilometers southwest of the town of Aksakovo;
- x. Stara Zagora Military Airport (N4222 E2542), 1,800 x 1,500 meters, located four kilometers southeast of Stara Zagora, has four hangars;
- y. Telish Military Airport (N4320 E2415), 2,000 x 1,700 meters, located 30 kilometers southwest of Pleven, has a concrete runway, two hangars, and various buildings;
- z. Dobrich Military Airport (N4336 E2752), 1,300 x 1,300 meters, located approximately 24 kilometers northwest of Balchik, has five hangars and a concrete runway; and
- aa. Vidin Airport (N4400 E2251).

Emergency Airports

16. The following airports are emergency airports which are kept active or where construction work is in progress: Asen, Banya, Belitsa, Bukhovtsi, Gorna, Dzhumaya, Karnobat, Kurdzhali, Kraynovo (sic), Luvonovo (sic), Melnik, Momchilgrad, Malevo, Nevrokop, Petrich, Popovo, Razlog, Ruse, Simitli, Smolyan, Stozher, and Pazardzhik.

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1. Comment: attention is called to the discrepancy between the statement that "approximately 350 planes...were turned over to Bulgaria by the Soviet Union" and the breakdown of these planes by type, which adds up to over 450 planes.

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2. Comment: These two airports have been united and are now known as the Varna Military Airport.

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